

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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CONYERS ON 9-11 REPORT: "THE FBI MUST DO A BETTER JOB AT CONNECTING THE DOTS, SWEEPING REFORMS STILL NEEDED"

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., issued the following statement in response to the report released today by the joint congressional committee investigating the September 11th attacks:

"While the joint inquiry may not have uncovered a "smoking gun," today's report provides ample evidence of key clues and signals that astute FBI agents should have picked up on. Line after line of the report reveals incidences of missed opportunities. Beginning with the neglect of the now infamous "phoenix" memo and ending with the mishandling of potentially valuable informants, the FBI engaged in a pattern and practice of activities that did very little, if anything, to protect this nation from the devastating attacks it experienced on 9-11.

"To address some of the obvious blunders and miscues highlighted in the report, today I along with other Democratic colleagues, plan to introduce legislation that will bring about much needed reform within the halls of the FBI. Among other things, our bill will initiate a comprehensive evaluation of all current FBI programs and activities and examine the need, if any, for additional authorities; provide FBI employees with whistler-blower protections to encourage those individuals who may have information concerning possible acts of criminal wrongdoing to come forward and report them; and establish a counterintelligence polygraph program to provide earlier detection of compromised agents or crooked informants. The American people deserve to be protected from future terrorist-related attacks. This legislation is the first step, of hopefully many, to take us in that direction."

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